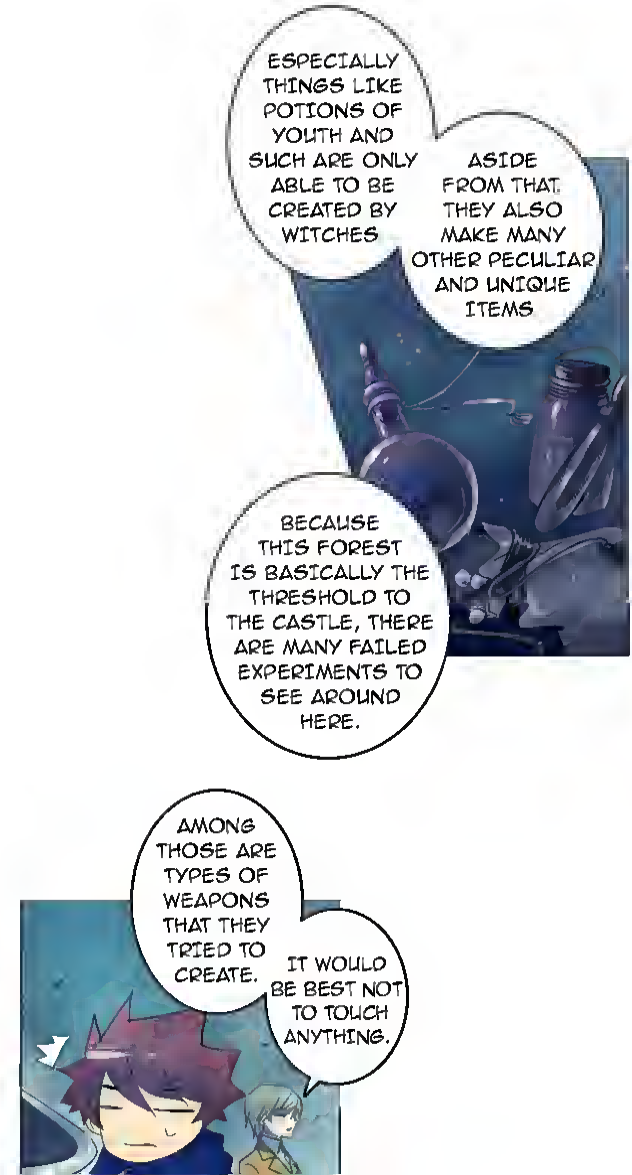
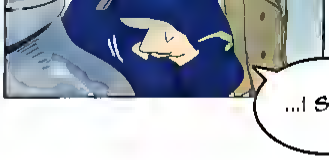
66

WITCH STRONGHOLD, ARINAYAN CASTLE.
AHHHHHH!!
WE HAVE TO GO TO THE WITCHES' CASTLE BECAUSE OF THAT LITTLE WITCH BRAT?!
AND SHE HAD THE GALL TO STEAL OUR VISAS?!
THAT PISSES ME OFF! IT PISSES ME OFF LIKE CRAZY!! SHE'S NOT GOING TO GET AWAY WITH THIS!!
GRIT
GRIT
GRIT
GRIT

ACKKKKKK!!
ARE YOU SURE WE SHOULDN'T RESTRAIN HIM A BIT?
FUME FUME
IT SHOULD BE FINE. I LET IRENE KNOW THE PLAN, BUT WITCHES ARE WISE. I'M SURE THEY'VE ALREADY BEGUN PREPARING FOR A DEMON ATTACK.
BESIDES THAT, WE HAVE TO BE CAUTIOUS IN THIS FOREST
?!

THIS IS THE FOREST THROUGH WHICH YOU GET TO THE WITCHES' CASTLE.
BECAUSE THERE ARE SO MANY THINGS THAT WERE CREATED BY THE WITCHES. THIS PLACE IS ALSO CALLED THE "WITCHES' GARDEN".
WOW~ THERE ARE SO MANY UNIQUE THINGS HERE.
WITCHES ARE BEINGS THAT HAVE A THIRST FOR NEVER-ENDING KNOWLEDGE.
BECAUSE THEY WANT TO GAIN SO MUCH KNOWLEDGE, THEY SPEND AN ENDLESS AMOUNT OF TIME STUDYING.
SOUNDS JUST LIKE THE OPPOSITE OF SOMEONE I KNOW.


ESPECIALLY THINGS LIKE POTIONS OF YOUTH AND SUCH ARE ONLY ABLE TO BE CREATED BY WITCHES
ASIDE FROM THAT, THEY ALSO MAKE MANY OTHER PECULIAR AND UNIQUE ITEMS
BECAUSE THIS FOREST IS BASICALLY THE THRESHOLD TO THE CASTLE, THERE ARE MANY FAILED EXPERIMENTS TO SEE AROUND HERE.
AMONG THOSE ARE TYPES OF WEAPONS THAT THEY TRIED TO CREATE.
IT WOULD BE BEST NOT TO TOUCH ANYTHING.

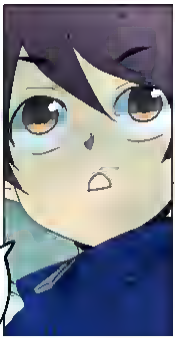

...I SEE.

HMPH!
SWOOP

WHATEVER.
BAM

THEY ALL GET SMASHED IN ONE PUNCH ANYWAYS!
I'LL DESTROY THEM ALL!!
BAM
BAM
BAMMM
STUPID

DEMON... HOW POINTLESS.



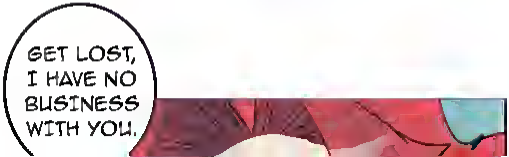
HUH? OVER THERE...

IT'S THE WITCHES!!
WOOOSH

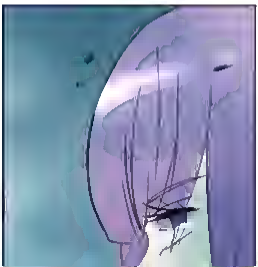
WELCOME, MEPHISTOPHELES.

TAP

I AM A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE WITCH COUNCIL. I AM HIGH WITCH VIOLIN.


GET LOST, I HAVE NO BUSINESS WITH YOU.

FLAP
FLAP
JUST BRING OUT THE LITTLE BRAT WHO STOLE OUR STUFF.
OR WOULD YOU RATHER DO THIS THE HARD WAY?

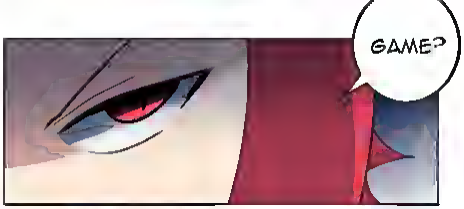


IF THAT IS WHAT YOU WISH... I WILL NOT OBJECT.
OH?!
AFTER SO MANY YEARS OF ACCORD WITH THE ANGELS,
YOU'RE NOW CONFIDENT IN YOUR ABILITIES?!
THAT IS NOT THE CASE.
THERE ISN'T A SINGLE PERSON HERE THAT ISN'T AWARE OF A DEMON'S ABILITIES.

MEPHISTO, WE ARE AWARE THAT YOU BURNT UP THE REQUEST THAT WE MADE FOR YOU...
HAH, I'M NOT GOING TO LET A PIECE OF PAPER TELL ME WHAT I HAVE TO DO.

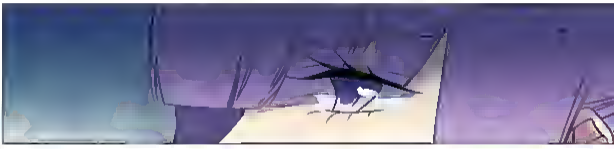
MEPHISTO, ARE YOU REALLY TRYING TO START A FIGHT RIGHT NOW?
I'M NOT GOING TO BACK DOWN FROM A FIGHT!
...UNDERSTOOD, MEPHISTOPHELES

HOWEVER... IN WHAT CAPACITY WOULD I BE ABLE TO FIGHT EVENLY WITH A DEMON?
IF IT'S ALRIGHT WITH YOU... WHY DON'T WE RESOLVE THIS WITH A GAME?


GAME?

YES.
NOT JUST YOU.
BUT I AM ALSO
INVITING THE
HUMANS BEHIND YOU
TO PARTICIPATE
IN THE GAME.
IF MEPHISTO
IS VICTORIOUS,
I WILL GRANT ONE
WISH. NO MATTER
WHAT IT IS.

OH?
IF I WIN,
YOU'LL GRANT
ME ONE
WISH...?
SO,
WHAT'S THE
GAME?



CHESS.

POOF
THIS IS A CHESS BOARD

QUITE LARGE, RIGHT?

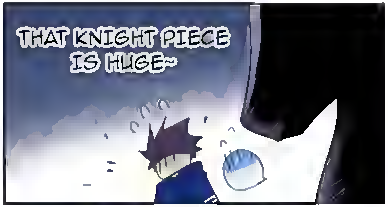
IT IS THE LARGEST CHESS BOARD KNOWN IN THE UNDERWORLD

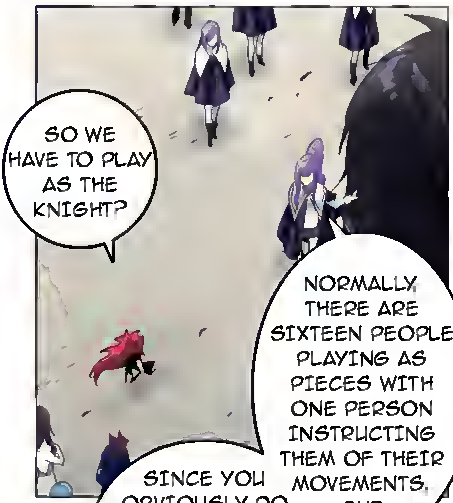
IT'S SO BIG~!

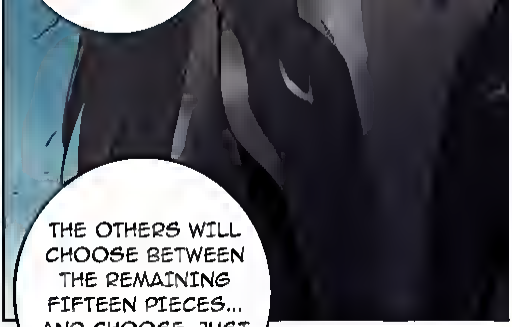
WE'RE GOING TO PLAY CHESS ON THIS THING?

YES. AND SINCE WE'RE PLAYING ON SUCH A LARGE BOARD, WE SHOULD USE THE APPROPRIATE ITEMS.

THE RULES ARE THE SAME AS THOSE OF BASIC CHESS.
BUT, THE PLAYER HIMSELF WILL BE ACTING AS A CHESSMAN.
TAP
IT'S A REAL LIFE GAME OF CHESS.

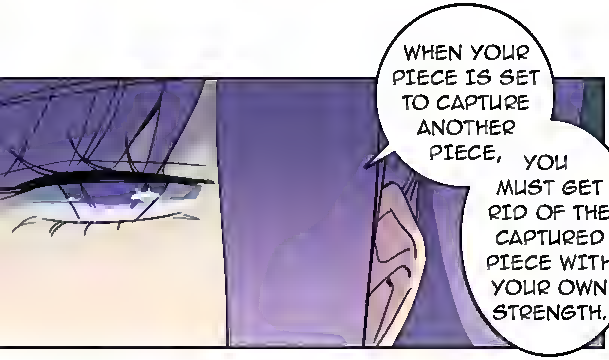

THAT KNIGHT PIECE IS HUGE~


SO WE HAVE TO PLAY AS THE KNIGHT?
NORMALLY THERE ARE SIXTEEN PEOPLE PLAYING AS PIECES WITH ONE PERSON INSTRUCTING THEM OF THEIR MOVEMENTS, BUT
SINCE YOU OBVIOUSLY DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH PLAYERS, WE WILL SCALE DOWN THE GAME.
ONE PERSON WILL OBSERVE THE BOARD AND MOVE AROUND AS THE KNIGHT..


THE OTHERS WILL CHOOSE BETWEEN THE REMAINING FIFTEEN PIECES... AND CHOOSE JUST THREE PIECES TO PLAY AS.

WHAT PIECE YOU CHOOSE WILL BE UP TO YOU.
IN ORDER TO MAKE THINGS EVEN, WE WILL PLAY AS A GROUP OF FOUR AS WELL.

ARE THOSE ALL THE RULES?
THERE IS ONE MORE VERY IMPORTANT RULE.


WHEN YOUR PIECE IS SET TO CAPTURE ANOTHER PIECE,
YOU MUST GET RID OF THE CAPTURED PIECE WITH YOUR OWN STRENGTH.

LET ME EXPLAIN.

LET'S SAY THAT MEPHISTO IS A PAWN AND

HE'S TRYING TO CAPTURE A BISHOP ON THE OPPOSING TEAM.

OF COURSE IN NORMAL CHESS, MEPHISTO WOULD JUST REMOVE THE BISHOP FROM THE FIELD OF PLAY, HOWEVER

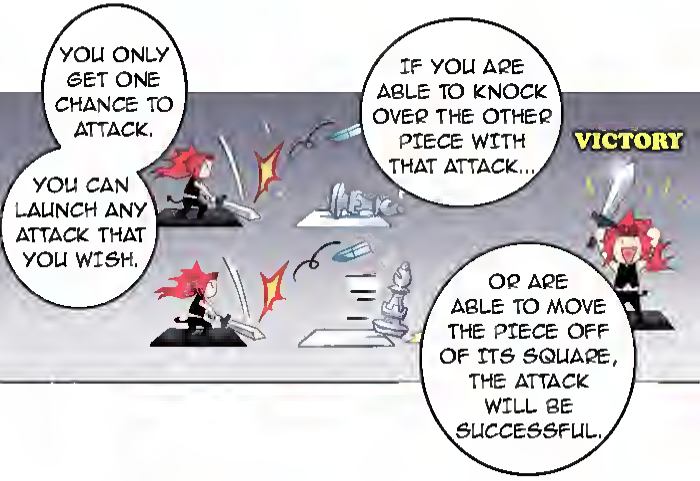
THINGS WORK A BIT DIFFERENTLY HERE.

ATTACK

DEFENSE

MEPHISTO WILL HAVE TO ATTACK THE PIECE HEAD-ON.

AND IN TURN, THE BISHOP WOULD ONLY CAPABLE OF DEFENDING AGAINST THE ATTACK.


YOU ONLY GET ONE CHANCE TO ATTACK.
YOU CAN LAUNCH ANY ATTACK THAT YOU WISH.
IF YOU ARE ABLE TO KNOCK OVER THE OTHER PIECE WITH THAT ATTACK...
VICTORY
OR ARE ABLE TO MOVE THE PIECE OFF OF ITS SQUARE, THE ATTACK WILL BE SUCCESSFUL.

IN WHICH YOU ARE UNABLE TO KNOCK OVER THE PIECE OR MOVE THE PIECE OFF OF ITS SQUARE...

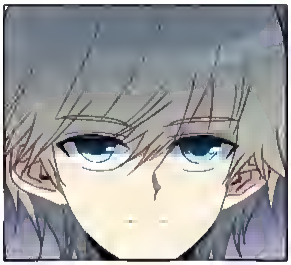
THE ATTACK WILL BE DEEMED UNSUCCESSFUL

AND MEPHISTO WOULD BE THE ONE TO GET ELIMINATED.

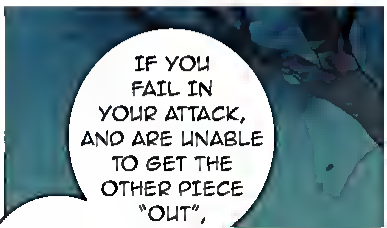
NOW I WILL EXPLAIN HOW TO UTILIZE THE CHESS PIECES.

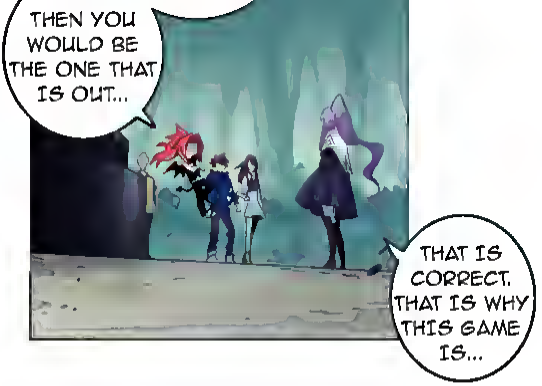
IN CASES OF THE CHESS PIECES CONFRONTING EACH OTHER ON THEIR OWN, THE BASIC RULES OF CHESS WILL APPLY.

IN CASES OF A PLAYER CONTROLLED PIECE CONFRONTING A REGULAR PIECE... THE REGULAR PIECE WILL USE THE WEAPONS THAT ARE AT ITS DISPOSAL.
IF YOU UNDERESTIMATE THE PIECE BECAUSE THEY ARE NOT BEING CONTROLLED BY A PLAYER...
YOU WILL DEFINITELY REGRET IT.



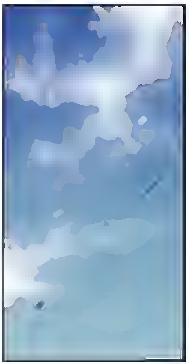
I...I WILL CHEER YOU GUYS ON...

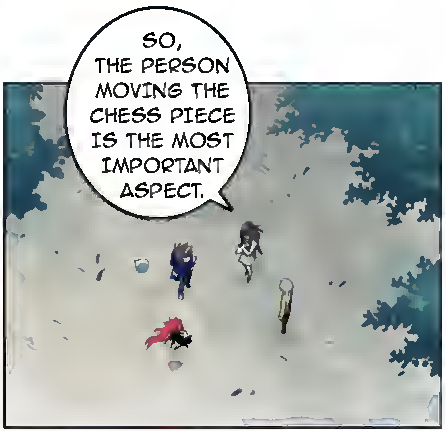

IF YOU FAIL IN YOUR ATTACK, AND ARE UNABLE TO GET THE OTHER PIECE "OUT",

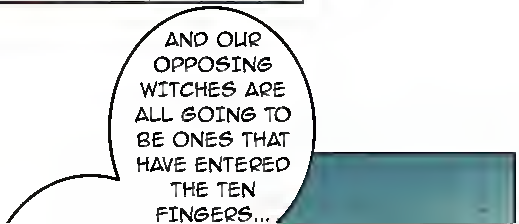

THEN YOU WOULD BE THE ONE THAT IS OUT...
THAT IS CORRECT. THAT IS WHY THIS GAME IS...

CALLED FIGHTING CHESS.

FIGHTING CHESS, YOU SAY ...
SOUNDS INTERESTING!!
GRIN




SO, THE PERSON MOVING THE CHESS PIECE IS THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT.


AND OUR OPPOSING WITCHES ARE ALL GOING TO BE ONES THAT HAVE ENTERED THE TEN FINGERS...

SINCE WE HAVE FAUST ON OUR TEAM... YOU HAVE NO ISSUES WITH CHESS, RIGHT FAUST?

YES.

I WAS LUCKY ENOUGH IN MY TRAVELS TO HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO PLAY WITH A WORLD CHAMPION CHESS PLAYER.

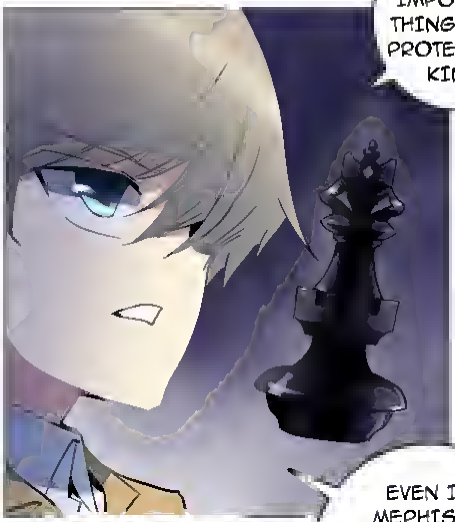
IT WAS QUITE THE FULFILLING VICTORY.

...FAUST, HAVE YOU EVER LOST IN A GAME OF CHESS?

...NOPE.

I'M STARTING TO GET REALLY SCARED OF YOU, FAUST...

...I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT WHICH PIECES TO USE
SCRIBBLE
SINCE SHE EXPLAINED THAT WE CANNOT CONTROL THE KING...
THE IMPORTANT PIECE THAT CAN MOVE IN ANY DIRECTION IS THE QUEEN.
MEPHISTO, YOU WILL BE CONTROLLING THE QUEEN.
SOOIN WILL BE THE BISHOP.
AND SHIHOON WILL BE A PAWN. I BELIEVE THIS TO BE THE IDEAL SETUP.


THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS TO PROTECT THE KING.
EVEN IF MEPHISTO IS STILL ALIVE ON THE BOARD, IT WILL MEAN NOTHING IF OUR KING FALLS.

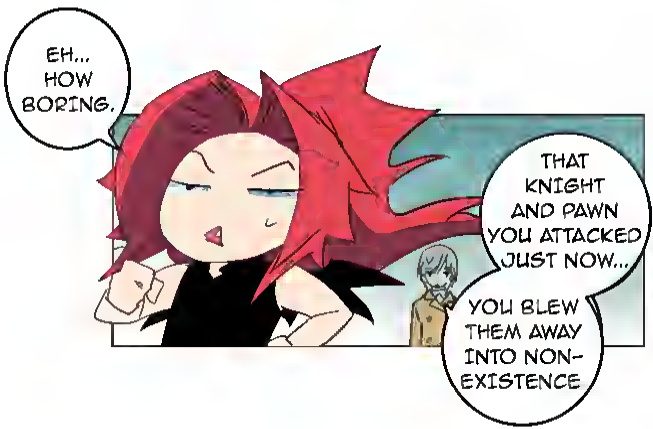
WHY THE HELL AM I A PAWN?!!
SUITS YOU.
PERFECTLY.
PFFT.

THAT'S NOT THE CASE, SHIHOON.
????
BECAUSE YOU WILL BE THE ONE TO DELIVER THE DECISIVE BLOW
<BLACK>
FAUST
MEPHSITO: QUEEN
SOOIN CHA: BISHOP
SHIHOON CHA: PAWN
<WHITE>
VIOLIN
ELENA: QUEEN
SERESRA: KNIGHT
RIAN: ROOK

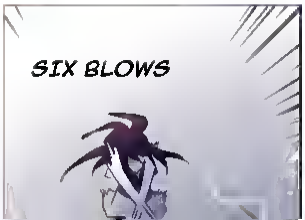
START!!

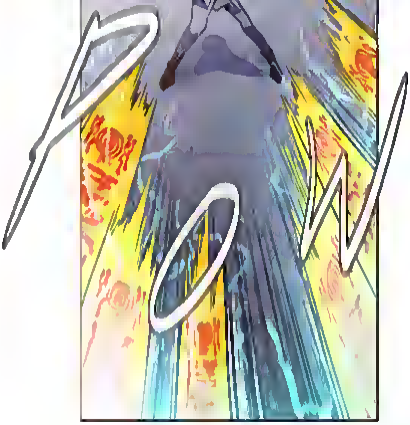
QUEEN. A4.
NICE, IT'S MY TURN TO ATTACK.
VROOM
VROOM
YOU'RE THE ROOK I'M GOING UP AGAINST?
TRY TO SEE IF YOU CAN DEFEND AGAINST MY ATTACK.
SHRIEK~
I'LL LOSE IF YOU CAN DEFEND JUST ONCE.
SHALL WE!!
POW

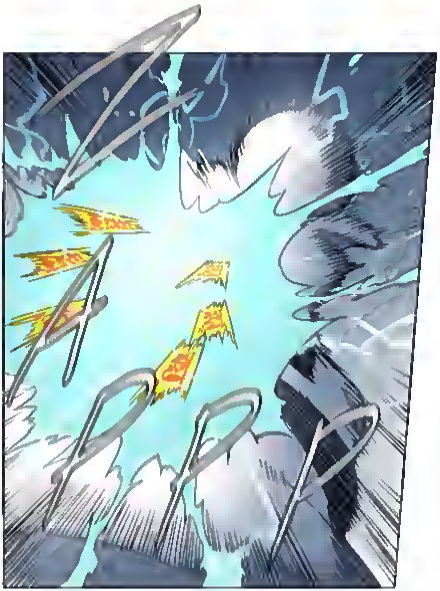
I...I FORFEIT~!!
ZOOOOM~
SCREECH


EH... HOW BORING.
THAT KNIGHT AND PAWN YOU ATTACKED JUST NOW...
YOU BLEW THEM AWAY INTO NON-EXISTENCE

LIGHTNING
TELEKINESIS
OOSH

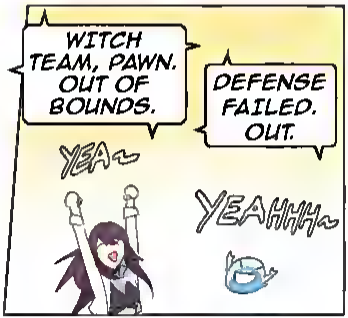

SIX BLOWS


POW


BOOM

CRACK

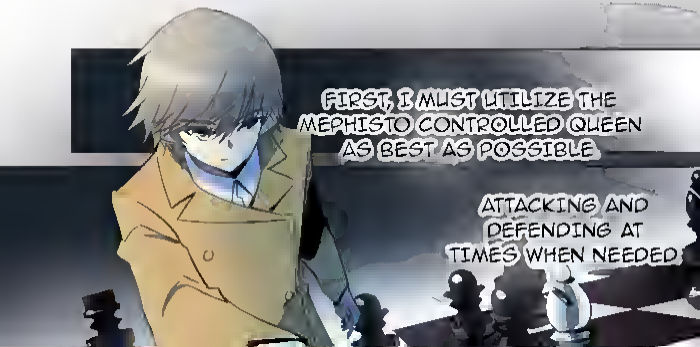
CRACKK

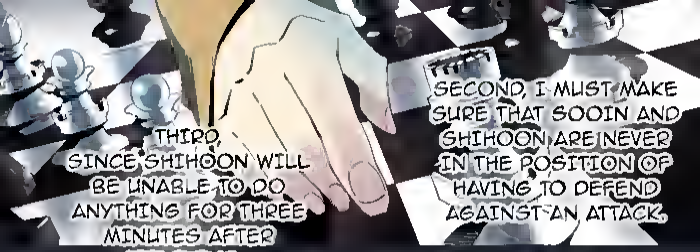

WITCH TEAM, PAWN. OUT OF BOUNDS.
YEA~
DEFENSE FAILED. OUT.
YEAHHH~

POP
IT'S FINALLY MY TURN
THE THIRD HAND.
PAN

BOOM
WITCH TEAM. KNIGHT DOWN.
DEFENSE FAILED. OUT.
YEAH!! LET'S GO!!

THERE ARE FOUR THINGS TO CONSIDER.

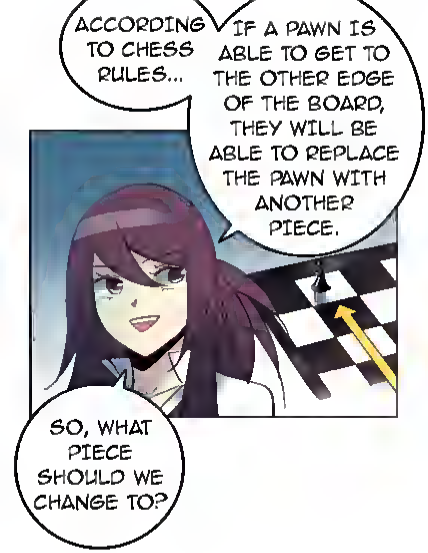

FIRST, I MUST UTILIZE THE MEPHISTO CONTROLLED QUEEN AS BEST AS POSSIBLE
ATTACKING AND DEFENDING AT TIMES WHEN NEEDED


SECOND, I MUST MAKE SURE THAT SOOIN AND SHIHOON ARE NEVER IN THE POSITION OF HAVING TO DEFEND AGAINST AN ATTACK.
THIRD, SINCE SHIHOON WILL BE UNABLE TO DO ANYTHING FOR THREE MINUTES AFTER ATTACKING...
I WILL HAVE TO MOVE THE PIECES AROUND TO PROTECT HIM.

THE FOURTH AND LAST...
WHILE MAKING SURE TO DO ALL THOSE THINGS, I WILL ALSO HAVE TO READ AHEAD OF THE WITCH'S PLANS.

TAP

YEAH~ GREAT JOB!!
I'M AT THE EDGE OF THE CHESS BOARD!!

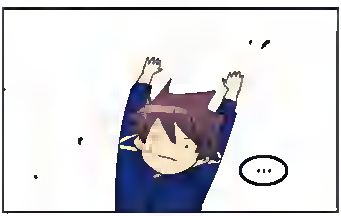

ACCORDING TO CHESS RULES...
IF A PAWN IS ABLE TO GET TO THE OTHER EDGE OF THE BOARD, THEY WILL BE ABLE TO REPLACE THE PAWN WITH ANOTHER PIECE.
SO, WHAT PIECE SHOULD WE CHANGE TO?

THE CHOICE IS EASY...

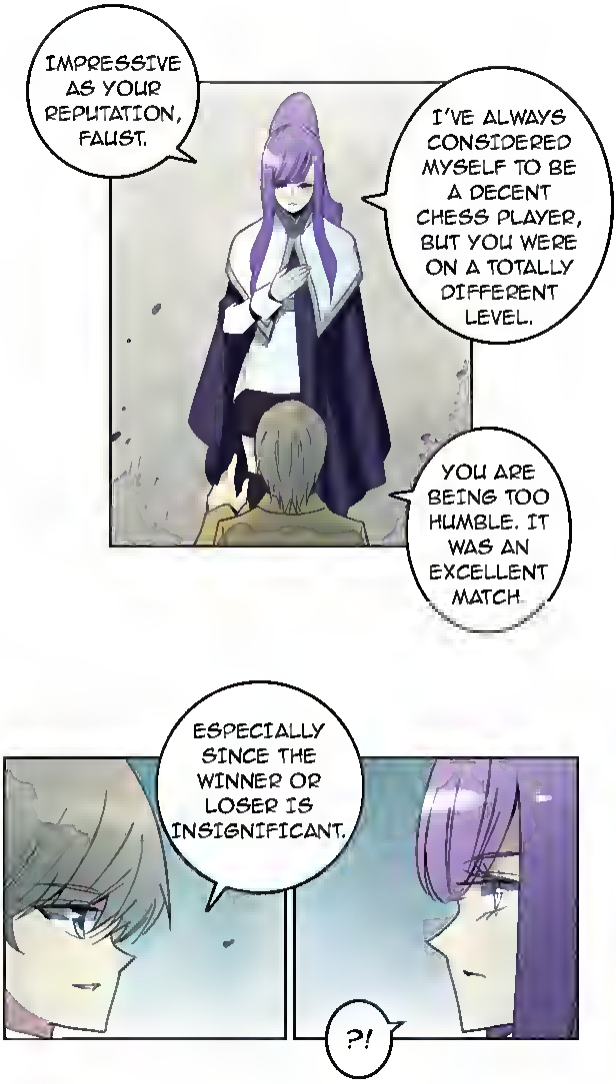
A QUEEN JUST LIKE MEPHISTO!!

BAM

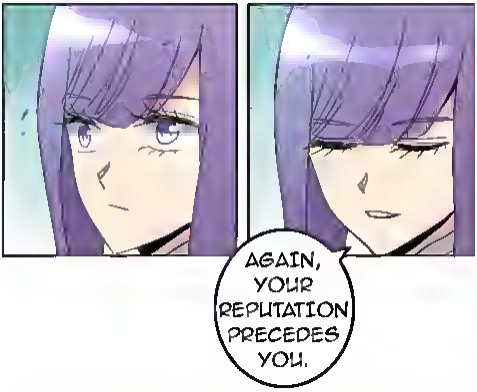
HAHAHAHA~!! I'M A QUEEN TOO~!!
YOU'RE A DIFFERENT TYPE OF QUEEN THAN I AM.
YOU KNOW WE'RE ALMOST DONE WITH THE GAME...


...

GOOD WORK, EVERYONE.


IMPRESSIVE AS YOUR REPUTATION, FAUST.
I'VE ALWAYS CONSIDERED MYSELF TO BE A DECENT CHESS PLAYER, BUT YOU WERE ON A TOTALLY DIFFERENT LEVEL.
YOU ARE BEING TOO HUMBLE. IT WAS AN EXCELLENT MATCH.
ESPECIALLY SINCE THE WINNER OR LOSER IS INSIGNIFICANT.
?!

THE REAL MOTIVE WAS TO DETERMINE WHAT TYPE OF PEOPLE WE WERE...
AM I WRONG?


AGAIN, YOUR REPUTATION PRECEDES YOU.

WE ARE AWARE OF THE DEMON'S TENDENCIES.
THE PROBLEM WERE THE HUMANS THAT WERE COMING ALONG WITH THE DEMON
IT WAS VERY IMPORTANT TO FIND OUT WHAT TYPE OF PEOPLE YOU WERE.
I'VE HEARD OF FAUST BEFORE. BUT HAVE NEVER MET HIM.
AND JUST IN CASE THIS WAS ALL A PLAN TO USE IRENE...

WE HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO BE CAREFUL.

WE... HAVE BEEN ABLE TO OBSERVE YOU ALL DURING THE CHESS MATCH.

WE HAVE CONCLUDED THAT YOU HAVE NO ILL INTENT TOWARDS US.

NOW, I THINK THAT'S ENOUGH TALKING...

WE WON THE GAME.
GRIN
ARE YOU READY?

SOUL CARTEL
To be continued

LINE Webtoon